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suspension and any requirements the unit operator must meet for the suspension to remain in effect.

§ 3287.2 When may BLM grant a suspension of unit obligations?

(a) BLM may grant a suspension of unit obligations when, despite the exercise of due care and diligence, the unit operator is prevented from complying with such obligations, in whole or in part, by:

- (1) Acts of God;
- (2) Federal, state, or municipal laws;
- (3) Labor strikes;
- (4) Unavoidable accidents;
- (5) Uncontrollable delays in transportation;

(6) The inability to obtain necessary materials or equipment in the open market; or

(7) Other circumstances that BLM determines are beyond the reasonable control of the unit operator, such as agency timeframes required to complete environmental documents.

(b) BLM may deny the request for suspension of unit obligations when the suspension would involve a lengthy or indefinite period. For example, BLM might not approve a suspension of initial drilling obligations due to a unit operator's inability to obtain an electrical sales contract, or when poor economics affect the electrical generation market, limiting the opportunity to obtain a viable sales contract. BLM may grant a suspension of subsequent drilling obligations when it is in the public interest.

§ 3287.3 How does a suspension of unit obligations affect the terms of the unit agreement?

(a) BLM may suspend any terms of the unit agreement during the period a suspension is effective. During the period of the suspension, the involved unit terms are tolled. The suspension may not relieve the unit operator of its responsibility to meet other requirements of the unit agreement. For example, the unit operator may continue to be required to diligently develop or produce the resource during a suspension of drilling obligations.

(b) The unit operator must ensure all interests in the agreement are notified

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of any suspension granted and the terms of the suspension.

§ 3287.4 May a decision made by BLM under this part be appealed?

A unit operator or any other adversely affected person may appeal a BLM decision regarding unit administration or operations in accordance with § 3200.5 of this chapter.

PART 3400—COAL MANAGEMENT: GENERAL

Subpart 3400—Introduction: General

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AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 189, 359, 1211, 1251, 1266, and 1273; and 43 U.S.C. 1461, 1733, and 1740.

SOURCE: 44 FR 42609, July 19, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 3400—Introduction: General

§ 3400.0–3 Authority.

(a) These regulations are issued under the authority of and to implement provisions of:

(1) The Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*).

(2) The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of August 7, 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 351–359 *et seq.*).

(3) The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*).

(4) The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, August 3, 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*).

(5) The Multiple Mineral Development Act of August 13, 1954 (30 U.S.C. 521–531 *et seq.*).

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(6) The Department of Energy Organization Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7101 *et seq.*).

(7) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

(8) The Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, as amended (90 Stat. 1083-1092).

(9) The Act of October 30, 1978 (92 Stat. 2073-2075).

(b) Specific citations of authority in subsequent subparts of this Group 3400 are to authorities from which the subpart is chiefly derived or which the subpart chiefly implements.

§ 3400.0-5 Definitions.

As used in this group:

(a) *Alluvial valley floor* has the meaning set forth in 30 CFR Chapter VII.

(b) *Authorized officer* means any employee of the Bureau of Land Management delegated the authority to perform the duty described in the section in which the term is used.

(c) *Bonus* means that value in excess of the rentals and royalties that accrues to the United States because of coal resource ownership that is paid as part of the consideration for receiving a lease.

(d) *Bypass coal* means an isolated coal deposit that cannot, for the foreseeable future, be mined economically and in an environmentally sound manner either separately or as part of any mining operation other than that of the applicant for either an emergency lease under the provisions of § 3425.1-4 of this title or a lease modification.

(e) *Casual use* means activities which do not ordinarily lead to any appreciable disturbance or damage to lands, resources or improvements, for example, activities which do not involve use of heavy equipment or explosives and which do not involve vehicle movement except over already established roads and trails.

(f) *Certificate of bidding rights* means a right granted by the Secretary to apply the fair market value of a relinquished coal or other mineral lease or right to a preference right coal or other mineral lease as a credit against the bonus bid or bids on a competitive lease or leases acquired at a lease sale or sales, or as a credit against the payment required for a coal lease modification.

(g) *Coal deposits* mean all Federally owned coal deposits, except those held in trust for Indians.

(h) *Department* means the United States Department of the Interior.

(i) *Director* means the Director of the Bureau of Land Management unless otherwise indicated.

(j) *Environmental assessment* means a document prepared by the responsible Federal agency consistent with 40 CFR 1508.9.

(k) *Exploration* has the meaning set forth in § 3480.0-5(a)(17) of this title.

(l) *Exploration license* means a license issued by the authorized officer to permit the licensee to explore for coal on unleased Federal lands.

(m) *Exploration plan* has the meaning set forth in § 3480.0-5(a)(18) of this title.

(n) *Fair market value* means that amount in cash, or on terms reasonably equivalent to cash, for which in all probability the coal deposit would be sold or leased by a knowledgeable owner willing but not obligated to sell or lease to a knowledgeable purchaser who desires but is not obligated to buy or lease.

(o) *Federal lands* mean lands owned by the United States, without reference to how the lands were acquired or what Federal agency administers the lands, including surface estate, mineral estate and coal estate, but excluding lands held by the United States in trust for Indians, Aleuts or Eskimos.

(p) *Governmental entity* means a Federal or state agency or a political subdivision of a state, including a county or a municipality, or any corporation acting primarily as an agency or instrumentality of a state, which produces electrical energy for sale to the public.

(q) *Interest* in a lease, application or bid means: any record title interest, overriding royalty interest, working interest, operating rights or option, or any agreement covering such an interest; any claim or any prospective or future claim to an advantage or benefit from a lease; and any participation or any defined or undefined share in any increments, issues, or profits that may be derived from or that may accrue in any manner from the lease based on or pursuant to any agreement or understanding existing when the application